REMARKS

In light of the following remarks and above amendments, reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, are patentably distinct over the prior art cited by the Examiner, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 USC §112. Changes to these claims, as presented herein, are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

Amended claims 1-10 are in this application. Claims 11-17 are newly added. No new matter has been presented.

At paragraph 3 of the outstanding Office Action of July 31, 2003, the Examiner rejected claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner stated that the recitation "receiving means" was vague and indefinite. Applicants have amended claim 6 to clearly identify the recitation of "receiving means." Applicants therefore respectfully request that the 112, second paragraph rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 6 has further been amended herein by adding the limitations "selection means for selecting image data corresponding to each of one or more images from said data base in which sent stored corresponding location data corresponds to said current position location of said information retrieval apparatus" and "comparison means for comparing said obtained image to said image data of said one or more selected images." Attached hereto is a marked-up version

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of the changes made to claim 6 in the current amendment with respect to the first amendment filed on May 7, 2003. The attached page is captioned **"Version with markings to show changes made."**

Claims 7-10 had been previously added as new claims in an amendment filed on May 7, 2003. Claims 7-10 have been amended in this amendment by adding the limitations "selection means for selecting image data corresponding to each of one or more images from said data base in which sent stored corresponding location data corresponds to said current position location of said information retrieval apparatus" and "comparison means for comparing said obtained image to said image data of said one or more selected images." Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to claims 7-10 in the current amendment with respect to the first amendment filed on May 7, 2003. The attached page is captioned **"Version with markings to show changes made."**

At paragraph 5 of the outstanding Office Action of July 31, 2003, the Examiner rejected claims 7-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Numagami (U.S. Patent No. 5,155,774). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Amended independent claim 7, recites in part, "An information retrieval apparatus ...comprising...**selection means** for selecting image data corresponding to each of one or more images from said data base in which sent stored corresponding location data corresponds to said current position location of said information retrieval apparatus...and **comparison means** for comparing said obtained image to said image data of said one or more selected images..." (Underlining and Bold added for emphasis.)

It is respectfully submitted that Numagami does not teach the above-recited feature of amended independent claim 7.

The selection means of the present invention selects from a database that contains a plurality of image data, the image data that have position data regarding positions around the current position detected by the detecting means. In other words, in the present invention depending on the detected image or image inputted by a user, the database performs a selection process in order to determine if any of the saved predetermined images in the database match the image(s) that the user has provided to the database. The database of Numagami does not perform a selecting process such that database images are compared to user provided images. Numagami selects maps from a database based <u>only</u> on location data and <u>not</u> on the image data obtained by a user at a specific location. The present invention uses the location data only to narrow down the images that will be looked through by the database. However, the determination of the relevant image data in the database is based on a comparison between images obtained by the user and images in the database, <u>not</u> the location of the user, as is the case in Numagami.

Numagami merely stores image data and then according to the location information, a map area corresponding to the image data is calculated and the map is retrieved. Therefore, a map is calculated based on the image data received and no use of image data is made. Numagami merely selects a map based on the location of the helicopter and then selects a specific spot of the map by manipulating the location data according to geometric calculations shown in figures 3 and 4. This is a significant difference between the invention taught by Numagami and the invention taught by the present invention because in accordance with the present invention the search performed by the database is limited to searching for specific image data only being indicated as being located in proximity to a specific location. Therefore amended independent claim 7 is believed to be distinguishable from Numagami.

For reasons similar to those described above with regard to amended independent claim 7, amended independent claims 8-10 are also believed to be distinguishable from Numagami.

Applicants therefore respectfully request the rejection of claims 7-10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) be withdrawn.

At page 6 of the outstanding Office Action of July 31, 2003, the Examiner rejected claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Bouve (U.S. Patent No. 5,682,525). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Amended independent claim 6, recites in part, "An information retrieval apparatus ...comprising...**selection means** for selecting image data corresponding to each of one or more images from said data base in which sent stored corresponding location data corresponds to said current position location of said information retrieval apparatus...and **comparison means** for comparing said obtained image to said image data of said one or more selected images... " (Underlining and Bold added for emphasis.)

It is respectfully submitted that Bouve does not teach the above-recited feature of amended independent claim 6.

The selection means of the present invention selects from a database that contains a plurality of image data, the image data that have position data regarding positions around the current position detected by the detecting means. In other words, depending on a comparison between the detected image or image inputted by a user and the images in the database, the database performs a selection process in order to determine if any of the saved predetermined images in the database match the image(s) that the user has provided to the database. On the other hand, Bouve teaches that the system provides for transmitting a portion of the information

in the database to a user via a link upon receipt of a request signal by the user that is representative of a selected category (column 2, lines 18-21). Furthermore, Bouve states an example of a multi-media presentation that is transmitted to a remote port when an associated item of interest is selected by a user (column 14, lines 13-20).

Therefore, a user can access a database from a remote location by selecting a category of interest in order to generate a map or positional information of the selected item of interest. In contrast, amended independent claim 6 teaches a remote database that performs the selection process, which includes the selection of multiple images that match an image provided by a user. The user does not select a category to be provided to a remote database, but merely selects an image that will be provided to a database. As a result, the database goes through a selection process in order to find a match between the inputted image(s) and saved predetermined images in the database. Also, in accordance with the present invention the search performed by the database is limited to searching for specific image data only being indicated as being located in proximity to a specific location. Consequently, Bouve merely teaches a graphical interface for accessing information from a remote database and does not perform a comparison of images. Therefore amended independent claim 6 is believed to be distinguishable from Bouve.

Applicants therefore respectfully request the rejection of claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) be withdrawn.

At paragraph 8 of the outstanding Office Action of July 31, 2003, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 5 and 7-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bouve (U.S. Patent No. 5,682,525) in view of Numagami (U.S. Patent No. 5,155,774). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Independent claims 1, 5 and 7-10 all include the selecting means and comparison means limitations, which are shown in neither Bouve nor Numagami as argued above. Further, claims 2 and 3 depend either directly or indirectly from amended independent claim 1, and due to such dependency are also believed to be distinguishable over Bouve and Numagami as applied by the Examiner for at least the reasons described above.

Applicants therefore respectfully request the rejection of claims 1-3, 5 and 7-10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

At paragraph 9 of the outstanding Office Action of July 31, 2003, the Examiner rejected claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bouve (U.S. Patent No. 5,682,525) and Numagami (U.S. Patent No. 5,155,774) as applied to claim 1 and further in view of Hudetz (U.S. Patent No. 5,978,773). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 4 is indirectly dependent from amended independent claim 1 and, due to such dependency, is also believed to be distinguishable from the applied combination of Bouve and Numagami for at least the reasons previously described. The Examiner did not rely on Hudetz to overcome the above-identified deficiencies of Bouve and Numagami. Therefore, claim 4 is believed to be distinguishable from the applied combination of Bouve, Numagami and Hudetz.

Applicants therefore respectfully request the rejection of claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

At paragraph 10 of the outstanding Office Action of July 31, 2003, the Examiner rejected claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bouve (U.S. Patent No. 5,682,525) in view of Hudetz (U.S. Patent No. 5,978,773). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Independent claim 6 includes the selecting means and comparison means limitations, which are shown in neither Bouve nor Hudetz as argued above.
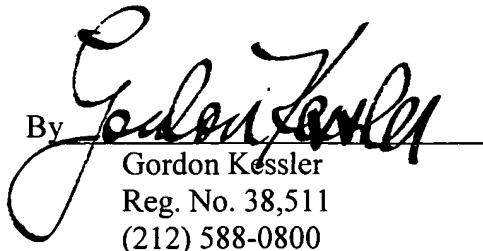
Applicants therefore respectfully request the rejection of claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

Applicants have further added new claims 11-17. Applicants submit that the 35 U.S.C. 102(b)(e) and 103(a) rejections relied upon by the Examiner do not apply to claims 11-17, and submit that the rejection of these claims over 35 U.S.C. 102(b)(e) and 103(a) would be improper.

It is to be appreciated that the foregoing comments concerning the disclosures in the cited prior art represent the present opinions of the applicants undersigned attorney and, in the event, that the Examiner disagrees with any such opinions, it is requested that the Examiner indicate where in the reference or references, there is the bases for a contrary view.

Please charge any fees incurred by reason of this response and not paid herewith to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,
FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP
Attorneys for Applicant(s)

By _____
Gordon Kessler
Reg. No. 38,511
(212) 588-0800

"VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE."

1.   (Amended)   An information retrieval apparatus for retrieving

information from a <u>remote</u> data base [which contains registration data including position data,

image data and designation information for retrieval of additional information]<u>, said data base</u>

<u>comprising image information for a plurality of images, and at least corresponding location data,</u>

comprising:

imaging means for obtaining an image;

location detection means for detecting a current position location of said

information retrieval apparatus; and

selection means for selecting image data [from said data base which corresponds

to the image obtained by said imaging means, said image data having position data representing

positions in the vicinity of the current position location detected by said location detection

means, and said designation information corresponding to said image data for retrieving said

additional information] <u>corresponding to each of one or more images from said data base in</u>

<u>which sent stored corresponding location data corresponds to said current position location of</u>

<u>said information retrieval apparatus; and</u>

<u>comparison means for comparing said obtained image to said image data of said</u>

<u>one or more selected images.</u>

2.   (Amended)   [An] <u>The</u> information retrieval apparatus according to

claim 1, further comprising reception means for receiving the image data [and the designation

information] <u>and at least the corresponding location data</u> via a computer network.

3. (Amended) [An] The information retrieval apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said reception means has a portable telephone function and is connected to said computer network via a telephone line.

4. (Amended) [An] The information retrieval apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the [designation information] corresponding location data is a URL for specifying information stored in a server of a world wide web build up on the Internet.

5. (Amended) An information retrieval method for retrieving information by an information retrieval apparatus from a remote data base [which contains registration data including position data, image data and designation information for retrieval of additional information], said data base comprising image information for a plurality of images, and at least corresponding location data, comprising the steps of:

obtaining an image;

detecting the current position location of the information retrieval apparatus; and

selecting image data from said data base [which corresponds to the image obtained, said image data having position data representing positions in the vicinity of the detected current position location of the information retrieval apparatus, and designation information corresponding to said image data for retrieving said additional information] corresponding to each of one or more images from said data base in which sent stored corresponding location data corresponds to said current position location of said information retrieval apparatus; and

comparing said obtained image to said image data of said one or more selected

images.

6.   (Twice Amended)   An information retrieval apparatus for

retrieving information from a remote data base [which contains registration data including at

least position data and designation information for retrieval of additional information], said data

base comprising image information for a plurality of images, and at least corresponding location

data, comprising:

imaging means for obtaining an image;

location detection means for detecting a current position location of said

information retrieval apparatus; and

selection means for selecting image data corresponding to each of one or more

images from said data base in which sent stored corresponding location data corresponds to said

current position location of said information retrieval apparatus;

comparison means for comparing said obtained image to said image data of said

one or more selected images;

transmitting means for transmitting said detected current position location to the

data base;

first receiving means for receiving said designation information corresponding to

said selected data for retrieving said additional information, said selected data having position

data representing positions in the vicinity of the detected current position location;

checking means for checking whether user's manual operation be is needed to

acquire said additional information corresponding to said designation information;

second receiving means for receiving additional information based on the designation information; and

displaying means for displaying said additional information.

7.   (New)   An information retrieval apparatus for retrieving information from a remote data base [which contains at least position data and image data], said data base comprising image information for a plurality of images, and at least corresponding location data, comprising:

location detection means for detecting a current position location of said information retrieval apparatus;

transmitting means for transmitting said detected current position location to the data base;

reception means for receiving said image data corresponding to said position data representing positions in the vicinity of the detected current position location;

imaging means for obtaining an image;

selection means for selecting image data corresponding to each of one or more images from said data base in which sent stored corresponding location data corresponds to said current position location of said information retrieval apparatus;

comparison means for comparing said obtained image to said image data of said one or more selected images;

checking means for checking a match between said received image and said obtained image.

8.   (New)   An information retrieval apparatus for retrieving

information from a <u>remote</u> data base [which contains at least position data and image data], <u>said</u>

<u>data base comprising image information for a plurality of images, and at least corresponding</u>

<u>location data,</u> comprising:

location detection means for detecting a current position location of said

information retrieval apparatus;

transmitting means for transmitting said detected current position location to the

data base;

reception means for receiving said image data corresponding to said position data

representing positions in the vicinity of the detected current position location;

imaging means for obtaining image;

<u>selection means for selecting image data corresponding to each of one or more</u>

<u>images from said data base in which sent stored corresponding location data corresponds to said</u>

<u>current position location of said information retrieval apparatus;</u>

<u>comparison means for comparing said obtained image to said image data of said</u>

<u>one or more selected images;</u>

displaying means for displaying said received image after performing a matching

process using said obtained image.

9.   (New)   An information retrieval method for retrieving information

from a <u>remote</u> data base [which contains at least position data and image data], <u>said data base</u>

<u>comprising image information for a plurality of images, and at least corresponding location data,</u>

comprising the steps of:

detecting a current position location of said information retrieval apparatus;

transmitting said detected current position location to the data base;

receiving said image data corresponding to said position data representing

positions in the vicinity of the detected current position location;

obtaining an image;

<u>selecting image data corresponding to each of one or more images from said data</u>

<u>base in which sent stored corresponding location data corresponds to said current position</u>

<u>location of said information retrieval apparatus;</u>

<u>comparing said obtained image to said image data of said one or more selected</u>

<u>images;</u>

checking means for checking a match between said received image and said

obtained image.

10.   (New)   An information retrieval method for retrieving information

from a remote data base [which contains at least position data and image data], said data base

comprising image information for a plurality of images, and at least corresponding location data,

comprising the steps of:

detecting a current position location of said information retrieval apparatus;

transmitting said detected current position location to the data base;

receiving said image data corresponding to said position data representing

positions in the vicinity of the detected current position location;

obtaining an image;

selecting image data corresponding to each of one or more images from said data

base in which sent stored corresponding location data corresponds to said current position

location of said information retrieval apparatus;

comparing said obtained image to said image data of said one or more selected

images;

displaying said received image after performance of a matching process using

said obtained image.

11.   (New)   The information retrieval apparatus according to claim 1,

wherein when said comparison means determines one of said selected images matches said

obtained image, additional information corresponding to said one of said selected images is

provided.

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12. (New)   The information retrieval method according to claim 5, wherein when it is determined that one of said selected images matches said obtained image, additional information corresponding to said one of said selected images is provided.

13. (New)   The information retrieval apparatus according to claim 6, wherein when said comparison means determines one of said selected images matches said obtained image, additional information corresponding to said one of said selected images is provided.

14. (New)   The information retrieval apparatus according to claim 7, wherein when said comparison means determines one of said selected images matches said obtained image, additional information corresponding to said one of said selected images is provided.

15. (New)   The information retrieval apparatus according to claim 8, wherein when said comparison means determines one of said selected images matches said obtained image, additional information corresponding to said one of said selected images is provided.

16. (New)   The information retrieval method according to claim 9, wherein when it is determined that one of said selected images matches said obtained image, additional information corresponding to said one of said selected images is provided.

17.   (New)   The information retrieval method according to claim 10,

wherein when it is determined that one of said selected images matches said obtained image,

additional information corresponding to said one of said selected images is provided.